

Iowa's Alternate Assessment Process for IEP Students & Meeting Dates

Background

As you may be aware, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997, as well as the Improving America's School Act, require that all students with disabilities, even those with the most significant disabilities, participate in state and district general assessment programs. There are three ways that students with disabilities can participate in Iowa districts' assessments: (a) without accommodations, (b) with one or more accommodations, or (c) through the Iowa Alternate Assessment process.

I am writing to inform you about plans for implementing the Iowa Alternate Assessment process this spring. This assessment component has been under development for some time, using a state advisory task force and a contractor team that includes Measured Progress, the Inclusive Large Scale Standards and Assessment group from the University of Kentucky, and the Purdue University Assessment Research Center. This group has worked hard to prepare materials for use this spring.

Information and Training Sessions

On **Tuesday, December 11, from 8:30 a.m. until noon, via the ICN** there will be a statewide briefing for regular and special education administrators and others interested in the Iowa Alternate Assessment process (see following ICN site list). The intent of this half-day briefing is to provide an overview of the Iowa Alternate Assessment process and the participation guidelines and how to use these to determine who should participate (and how to work with parents about this decision), and the educators who should attend January training. Additional information about the January training days will also be provided. We are strongly encouraging as many administrators as possible to attend this initial ICN training activity. Your support and acknowledgment of this initiative will be important to the spring implementation efforts.

On **January 15-18, 2002**, in-depth training for the special education teachers who will lead the Iowa Alternate Assessment process will be conducted at five regional sites. Each teacher is asked to attend the one day of training within their region. We realize that this is short notice and if it is not possible for all teachers to attend, we strongly encourage as much representation as possible from your district. The sites are January 15, Ottumwa; January 16, Cedar Falls; January 17, Storm Lake and Atlantic; and January 18, Des Moines. The designated teachers would be those who are responsible for the assessment of a special education student whose IEP team has determined the student is to be provided an alternate assessment. The only students who must be included in the alternate assessment are those special education students at grades 4, 8, and 11 or the age equivalent of these grades. Each training day will review the requirements of the Iowa Alternate Assessment, the manner in which students with significant disabilities can be given access to district content standards, the ways in which student achievement can be documented, and how the alternate assessment requirements can be met. Training will be provided by national experts who have been teachers of students with severe disabilities. Many concrete examples and materials will be provided for teacher use in the district. ***The Department will be able to cover the cost of substitute teachers and pay for travel and meals for participants. There will be no registration fee.*** We are asking each district to send the actual educators who will lead the Iowa Alternate Assessment process in their district; however, if space permits, other interested persons may be able to attend.

For further information, please contact Steve Maurer at steve.maurer@ed.state.ia.us or 515/281-3576.

Reservation Number: 256618

Title:	Alternate Assessment Training for Administ.	End Date:	12/11/01
Start Date:	12/11/01	Scheduler:	Patty Wood
Request Date:	11/1/01	Phone:	(515)281-3038
Requester:	MICHELE RIDOUT	Fax:	(515)242-5988
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		Est.:	

Description: Steve Maurer - 515-281-3900
Audience(s): K-12 Educators/Administrators

Subject(s): Meeting or Public Hearing

Session Date:	Tuesday, December 11, 2001	08:30 To 12:00	Session:	734299
			Site Status	Approval Status
	3	ELKADER-AEA	Committed	Approved
	10	CHARLES CITY-CC	Committed	Approved
	23	SIBLEY-HS	Committed	Approved
	24	SIOUX CENTER-AEA	Committed	Approved
	45	DES MOINES-CENTRAL CAMPUS1	Committed	Approved
	46	IOWA CITY-U OF I1	Committed	Approved
	47	AMES-ISU1	Committed	Approved
	67	NEWTON-CC1	Committed	Approved
	72	INDIANOLA-CSD-ADMIN	Committed	Approved
	96	FAIRFIELD-HS	Committed	Approved
Originate:	115	DES MOINES-DEPT/PUBLIC HEALTH	Committed	Approved
	123	CEDAR FALLS-UNI2	Committed	Approved
	154	FORT DODGE-AEA	Committed	Approved
	170	URBANDALE-HS	Committed	Approved
	173	CRESTON-AEA	Committed	Approved
	174	CYLINDER-AEA	Committed	Approved
	176	CLEAR LAKE-AEA	Committed	Approved
	197	SIOUX CITY-AEA	Committed	Approved
	198	CEDAR RAPIDS-AEA	Committed	Approved
	202	SPENCER-HS	Committed	Approved
	203	MARSHALLTOWN-AEA	Committed	Approved
	204	STORM LAKE-BUENA VISTA1	Committed	Approved
	205	COUNCIL BLUFFS-AEA	Committed	Approved
	218	CLINTON-HS	Committed	Approved
	237	OTTUMWA-AEA	Committed	Approved
	280	IOWA CITY-CSD-ADMIN	Committed	Approved
	283	VINTON-BRAILLE AND SIGHT SVNG	Committed	Approved
	311	DUBUQUE-AEA	Committed	Approved
	333	KNOXVILLE-HS	Committed	Approved
	350	CARROLL-HS	Committed	Approved
	352	RED OAK-HS	Committed	Approved
	374	JESUP-HS	Committed	Approved
	453	BETTENDORF-AEA	Committed	Approved
	500	CHEROKEE-MENTAL HEALTH	Committed	Approved
	509	BURLINGTON-NOTRE DAME-HS	Committed	Approved
	537	ATLANTIC-PUB LIB	Committed	Approved
	579	WEST DES MOINES-V	Committed	Approved
		SOUTHWOODS-HS		
	669	KEOKUK-PUB LIB (CART)	Committed	Approved
	777	GRINNELL-STEWART-PUB LIB	Committed	Approved